

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, OCTOBER 10, 1850.

The best news is that we have no news. We are in quiet, enjoying tolerably fine autumnal weather, the country resting, after the pleasant toils of harvest, and the towns filling again by the return of the sojourners at watering places and pleasant rural summer abodes. London is clean, noisy, and bustling, unusually healthy, and unusually free from beggars. Questions of sanitary improvements are again being mooted; lodging and boarding-house keepers are calculating the profits to be derived from the great influx of visitors next summer: children of all ages are anticipating the "glories" of the approaching Lord Mayor's show; and lovers of turtle and champagne have pleasant dreams about the great annual "feed" at Guildhall. But better than all these anticipations are the realities of increasing commerce, an improved state of the revenue, a fully employed population, abundance of food at moderate prices, and a diminished number of debtors in our prisons. In proof of the latter may be adduced the fact that there were fewer prisoners in the Queen's Bench Prison on Monday last than had been known for the thirty years previous; the lowest previous number being 153, and on Monday last there were only 152. Lawyers complain that their business is rapidly diminishing, owing to the extension of the county courts jurisdiction, the operation of the insolvent debtors' law, &c. The legal harvest is not so productive now as it was when Sir SAMUEL ROSS, nearly £150,000 a year, and Sir JAMES SCARLETT nearly £200,000; yet the profession has no great occasion to complain, since Sir JOHN JERVIS states that, at the present time, five leading barristers make upwards of £11,000 a year each, eight above £8,000 a year each, and twenty-five make each annually above £5,000 each. Truly we must either be a very law-loving and justice seeking people, or else very culpably litigious.

We have said that the revenue is improving; our assertion may be questioned when we state the fact that the quarter which terminates on this day will exhibit a deficiency of nearly £200,000 when compared with the corresponding one of 1849. The falling off has taken place in the items of customs, excise, and stamps. The diminished imports of brandy alone will account for the diminution in the customs' revenue. It will be remembered that an immensely increased consumption of brandy took place last year in consequence of its being used medicinally during the prevalence of the cholera. And, besides, owing to our improved condition, less grain has been imported, and there has been a decrease in the duties upon sugar, as was expected and intended. With these exceptions the foreign trade is active and prosperous. The decrease in the excise is more than accounted for by the repeal of the duty on bricks, the amount received from that source last year being more than the deficiency in the entire excise duties in this. The diminution in the stamps revenue has been occasioned by the postponement of a great amount of business until the operation of the new scale of reduced duties commenced. All other items continue much the same, and the income tax and the post office have increased in their produce. After all, however, the true state of the revenue is not to be deduced from the solitary fact of its amount; the true criterion is the position which that amount sustains when compared with the expenditure, and fortunately our reduced revenue is still greatly in excess of our reduced expenditure; the economical regulations of the Government are making themselves every day more and more felt, and the consequence will be a still further reduction of taxation, and consequently a proportionally diminished revenue. How differently is England situated to what she was one hundred and fifty years ago. During the reign of Queen Anne the total amount of customs, excise, land tax, and all other taxes and receipts amounted, from March, 1703, to August, 1714—a period of very nearly twelve years and a half—to no more than £82,520,377, or about £5,000,000 per annum. The amount arising from customs, excise, and taxes for the year 1849 was nearly £50,000,000—a tenfold increase—while the population has increased from about eight millions to nearly thirty millions. It may also be noticed that during the above-mentioned twelve years and a half of Queen Anne's reign the expenditure exceeded the revenue by no less than sixty millions, which was provided for by loans. So that one hundred and fifty years ago the revenue of the Kingdom was barely one-half its expenditure. We think that we have a right to be satisfied, more particularly so when it may be proved by "facts and figures" that our neighbors in France are, all things considered, bearing a much greater amount of individual taxation than we are. And if we turn from revenue to commerce, we are still entitled to be satisfied; for, although the declared value of the exports for the last year fell short of that for September 1849 by £279,961, yet that for the latter period originated in peculiar circumstances, and was no less than £1,816,000 in excess of those of 1848.

The decrease of this year's amount is entirely attributable to the diminution in cotton yarn, amounting to no less than £462,319 during the month, as compared with September, 1849, which has arisen from the high price of the raw material. In all the other great articles of manufacture and produce, except fish, metals, machinery, silk, refined sugar, wool, and woollen yarn, there has been an increase; whilst the increase for the first eight months of the year, compared with the same period of 1849, is no less than £4,648,246, and with that of 1848 £19,218,354. There is nothing in the imports of the month calling for any particular remark. The extent of the shipping business of London may be gathered from the fact that during the last ten days no fewer than 539 foreign vessels with cargoes of merchandise have been reported at the custom-house. Considerable stir has been making in London, Liverpool, and other places, during the last fortnight, about a proposition to establish in London a tribunal of commerce, similar to those which exist in Paris and other Continental commercial cities. This tribunal would remove from the cognizance of the courts of law many subjects which could be much better settled, according to the *lex mercatoria*, by an authorized board of merchants. Our municipal institutions have not kept pace with the increase of our commerce; and nothing has been established to supply the place of those Guilds and Corporations which in the middle ages decided doubtful questions of trade, and, perhaps, in some cases, rather over-regulated it, but, in the main, were productive of much good. The parties now stirring in the matter are desirous of having established a cheap and expeditious mode of settling, by arbitration or otherwise, the disputes which may arise between commercial men, without going into a court of law. We regard this as a good movement in aid of the Peace Congress, for we think that one great step towards causing nations to be more peaceable will be to make individual men less of a "law-loving animal." That sagacious writer, DANIEL DEFOE, perceived the necessity for something approaching in design and object these commercial tribunals, more than one hundred and fifty years ago, and in his very scarce work, "An Essay on Projects," published in 1697, recommended the appointment of six merchants as a board of commissioners, to hear and decide all commercial disputes, under the title of "Court Merchants."

The great Exhibition of 1851 engrosses much attention. No fewer than six hundred and twenty-eight exhibitors have been announced in the metropolitan districts, who are to occupy 42,710 feet of the floor and 29,310 feet of the walls with their articles. Edinburgh has thirty-two exhibitors, occupying 5,712 feet of surface, and Belfast thirty-three exhibitors, occupying 19,883 feet. About four hundred and fifty men are now employed upon the building in the park, which is advancing very rapidly. The greater part of the materials are already within the enclosure. AUSTRIA has taken a step in advance of all other nations in this business, by the establishment of a house of agency in London, to act as the medium of communication between the British and Austrian Commissioners, and to effect in London the unloading, transport, unpacking, and displaying the Austrian articles sent for exhibition, to afford information respecting them, to carry on the necessary correspondence, and to be in attendance during the exhibition and until the whole is settled. It will be necessary for each foreign

country to appoint a similar agency, through its Central Committee. We are much afraid that some irregularity, and consequent confusion and disappointment, will arise from its not being thoroughly understood in the United States that the commissioners here cannot attend to or recognize any other American authorities, in the concerns of the Exhibition, than the Central Committee appointed at Washington, and agents regularly authorized by that committee. We observe, by the National Intelligencer of the 23d ult., that the Governor of Mississippi has appointed a Central Committee for that State to correspond with the Central Committee at Washington; this is the correct course, and unless it is adopted all other arrangements will be nugatory. We think that, as the time is advancing very rapidly for the completion of arrangements, your Central Committee should depute one or two agents from the United States to come to England, and to act in union with some third person here in taking the preparatory steps to give due effect to your portion of the exhibition; to correspond with and give information to citizens of the United States who intend to become exhibitors; to make arrangements for the reception of visitors; and to attend to a great many other things which your committee will find necessary to be attended to, and which will require some confidential, active, and efficient agents on the spot to arrange satisfactorily.

Attention is now turned in England to the chemical and pharmaceutical departments of science. Systematic arrangements are in a forward state respecting these sciences in many of the continental States, particularly in France, where M. CHARLES DUFIN has published a very able pamphlet upon the subject. When we remember the beautiful specimens of chemical science and skill which were exhibited at your national fair in Washington in 1846, from the chemical works at Baltimore and other places, we feel that you need not fear to enter into competition in many things with the older laboratories of Europe. The following is the last return given by the Commissioners here of the number of British exhibitors already declared, their classification, &c.

Space on Floor.	Space on Walls.	Number of Exhibitors.
Raw materials.....7,748	6,865	169
Machinery.....105,033	2,123	704
Manufactures.....42,673	60,703	889
Fine arts, &c.....7,410	7,114	257
162,764	76,807	2,019

What is most striking in this analysis is the great space required by the machinery, and the small one for raw materials. Once more we urge upon our American friends the necessity to be up and doing.

There has been no deficiency in business in the corn market during the week, but prices have declined. Nearly 25,000 quarters of wheat have been received from abroad. A great deal of the English wheat comes in a bad condition to market, and is of very inferior quality. Good barley for malting is scarce, and fetches an advanced price. Oats have come in large quantities from Ireland, and have a heavy sale. The money market is without change. Business is very extensive, with a brisk demand for money, and an abundant supply. The funds may be said to be without variation, business on the stock exchange is small, and so steady that operations there seem to have ceased to attract attention. There is an increased business doing in railway shares. This kind of property has been unduly depressed, and is now steadily rising to its proper value. In the produce market there is a show of considerable activity. Sugar is decidedly dearer; the stock on hand is small. The demand for all colonial produce is large, and the supply does not keep pace with it. The inevitable result is advanced prices. These observations extend to tea, coffee, spices, cocoa, rice, salt-petre, and cochineal. Metals of all kinds are stationary, except a slight advance upon English copper. Hemp and flax are without variation. Wool, both English and foreign, on the demand.

Respecting cotton, an eminent broker at Liverpool says: "There is one thing we may depend on—cotton will find its way from all quarters to this market, a result well justified by the repeal of the navigation laws. Last week a cargo of 2,300 bales, shipped by a Spanish vessel, came from Vigo Bay, instead of going to its first destination, Barcelona; and I hear that two other cargoes, similarly situated, are on the way. Ultimately it may cause a heavier export to Spain; but meantime the concentration of cotton here will serve to keep speculation in check." The sales of cotton in London have been large, and at rather advanced prices. The stock on hand in London, of all sorts, is 26,900 bales, against 40,110 bales in 1849. The value of cotton is about 35 per cent. higher than it was last year, and fell 100 per cent. more than it was in 1848, but at that time the political events of the year had tended to reduce all prices unduly, and cotton has seldom or ever been so low as it is in the autumn of 1848.

Our literary news is small. The *Quarterly Review* is out with a very laudatory critique upon Mr. TICKNOR's *History of Spanish Literature*. The article itself—although the leading one—is said to be below the usual literary standard of the *Review*; it is not worthy the subject, and Mr. Ticknor's book should have been noticed by a pen of more power. The *Edinburgh Review* has an article upon the United States; it is to be published this evening, but we shall not be able to see it as we state its character by this packet. A Scotch gentleman, Mr. W. P. UNWIN, has been trying his hand at *Political Economy*, but by no means successfully. The reviewers, who have hitherto noticed his book, do not handle him very gently. Mr. Urquhart is a free-trader, and argues that the consequence of unrestricted commerce will be an increased productiveness of the existing taxes, and a consequent ability on the part of Government to dispense with some of them. He says that since 1815 old taxes have been abolished amounting to £50,000,000 per annum, and new ones levied to the amount of £13,000,000, leaving a balance of £37,000,000 per annum in favor of the people. He states that in 1860 the present taxes will exceed the expenditure by £7,000,000 annually. He then proposes to reduce the burdens of the people by diminishing taxation £4,000,000 per annum, and by judicious management of the remainder to reduce the national debt £130,000,000 in 1882. These calculations look well upon paper, and we sincerely wish they may be realized.

Whatever may be the political bias of AUSTRIA, she is certainly not backward in adopting scientific improvements, and in helping forward the cause of useful science generally. Her zeal towards the great industrial exhibition of 1851 has already been noticed, and it is worthy of record that during the last four months no less than one thousand miles of electric telegraph have been constructed in that country, making the total mileage about two thousand miles, of which about one-fourth has the wires laid underground upon an improved plan. Another one thousand miles will be ready by next year. The telegraph now works from Graz to Trieste, seven hundred miles. The new telegraph union between Austria, Prussia, Saxony, and Bavaria comes into operation this month with a table of charges reduced one-half.

The greater part of the English journals appear to entertain no doubt whatever of the projects of LOUIS NAPOLEON. After his tours to captivate the civilians, he has commenced reviews and champagne luncheons to please the military. Exhaustion of funds does not seem to have been the reason why the President abandoned his contemplated journey into the southern departments, but rather a conviction that he could better forward his aims by staying at home and lavishing his attentions, favors, and money upon the army. Gen. CHANGARNIER does not appear to approve of these attempts to buy the voices of the soldiers by bribes of cigars, champagne, and cold meats, and exhibited his disapproval in a very marked manner by leaving the field at the moment the entertainment commenced. Although such a proceeding must be characterized as a ruse, yet we cannot blame the General for thus showing his dislike of an attempt to convert the soldiers of the Republic into a mere praetorian band to work the downfall of existing institutions, and confer the rulership of the nation upon him who most liberally administers to their sensual gratification. This is the nephew of Napoleon Grand endeavoring to walk in the footsteps of his illustrious uncle, and to establish his position by military power, a foundation every way as much opposed to liberty as that upon which the Count DE CHAMORRE rests his claim—divine right. They are neither of them titles which the French people will acknowledge for any long period, and the urging of either of them must ultimately place the party who

urges it *hors de combat*. The Orleansists have little chance of success during the minority of the Count DE PARIS. Gen. CHANGARNIER is undoubtedly a stumbling block in the way of the President; but, unless we greatly err, a more insidious obstacle exists in Gen. CAVAIGNAC. Our reasons for thinking so are briefly stated. They are founded on the fact that a republican form of Government, or a quasi Republic, has been established in France, and has been acknowledged by the principal nations of the world. All the great elements of national prosperity are moving under republican institutions, and moving tolerably prosperously. To change the form of Government would be to endanger the present tranquility and prosperity, and induce an interminable period of confusion and distress. Therefore will the majority of the French people—although as a people their genius and disposition are decidedly anti-republican—rather continue to live under Republican rule than run the hazard of a change. Now, how can they best perpetrate or for a certain time continue the Republic? Not by re-electing LOUIS NAPOLEON, whose aspirations are all after the imperial dignity. Not by calling HENRY V. to power, for he claims to govern by "divine right." Not by turning to the ORLEANSISTS, for the heir of that house is a minor, and his friends would claim power through the rights conferred by a dynasty. Not by electing CHANGARNIER, for he is a Legitimist in principle, and would favor the return of the supporters of "divine right" to power; but by electing CAVAIGNAC, an honest and tried Republican, who saved the Republic in the hour of imminent peril, and who is most likely to uphold the existing state of things, and keep the country in its onward course of peace and prosperity.

The number of public employes in France adds much to the influence of the party in power; and when it is remembered that, according to returns made to the Chamber last session, there are 535,965 persons occupying civil offices in France, and that the army and navy together number 400,000—together nearly a million of men in the prime of life in the employment of the Government—the patronage and power of the President must be allowed to be immense. Upon the usual calculation, the number of adult males in France will be about nine millions, so that every ninth man is employed and paid by the State. To these must be added a certain portion of the clergy, marshals, generals, judges, ambassadors, &c.; in short, a considerable portion of nearly all the influential classes in France. This is an amazing amount of Executive power, and if wielded judiciously would be hard to overcome. The subject will require much consideration, and the system need a thorough remodeling, if France is intended to continue a Republic. An item of news from France, certainly of very minor importance, but still of consequence to the musical and fashionable world, is that Mr. LUXEMBOURG has obtained the management of the Italian Opera at Paris.

The only news from SPAIN is the continued rumors at Madrid of new plans for the invasion of Cuba. It is said that Gen. MIRASOL has communicated information to the Government expressing an opinion that their tenure of that valuable colony is a very precarious one. It is proposed to fortify Havana and seven other principal places, to increase the army twelve thousand men, and to place steamboats as a guard on the coast. At LISBON all fears of a military movement to overthrow the Cabinet of the Count DE THOMAS had for the present subsided.

All the GERMAN POWERS, except HANNOVER, have ratified the treaty of peace between DENMARK and PRUSSIA, and by it bound themselves to maintain the authority of the King of Denmark in Holstein. This being the case, the natural supposition is that hostilities would cease; and yet we have during the week received daily accounts of continued fighting between the Schleswig-Holsteiners and the Danes at the siege of Fredericksstadt. Speaking in military parlance, we suppose we must say that the former have made a series of most daring and skilful attacks upon that place; that the Danes have defended themselves with great gallantry; and that both parties have covered themselves with glory. Still the attack has hitherto been in vain; many hundreds of brave men have been sacrificed, and the hope of success weakened by the state of angry and excited feeling which such a prolonged and, so far, useless combat must necessarily occasion. If we turn to CASSER, we find every one there on the *qui vive*. The contemptible Elector is straining every means short of absolute violence to provoke an overt act of insurrection, which no doubt would be the signal for the troops of Bavaria or Hanover to advance, as they are understood to have received instructions to do from the Frankfurt Diet. Such an advance would cause, there is no doubt, Prussia to promptly abandon all half measures, and to march to the rescue of the gallant but peacefully inclined Hessians.

The key of German events is in the hands of the King of Prussia and his Minister, General VON RADOVITZ, who is looked upon in Austria as the incarnation of a pro-Russian, anti-Austrian policy. The appointment of Radowitz is regarded as a *pronunciamento* against Austria, and almost induces the latter to dare Russia to proceed to extremities. The true state of affairs in Germany, and the crisis upon which those affairs will turn, is the course which the Frankfurt Diet, dictated by Austria, will take towards HESSE CASSER. Prussia will not suffer a hostile movement in that direction. The appointment of Radowitz is a guarantee that the moment of indecision, to which we alluded last week, has passed. A war would then commence, of which no one can pretend to see the termination or the issue.

OCTOBER 11—P. M.
The Holstein expedition against Fredericksstadt has been abandoned; the guns were withdrawn on the evening of the 5th. The Queen of the Belgians is pronounced something better. The news from Germany is a shade more pacific. Austria speaks rather more moderately to Prussia, and Prussia is civil but firm towards Austria.

The Elector of Hesse has treated a deputation of Judges, &c. from Casser very cavalierly. He declares he must have unconditional obedience, and that he will not admit any meddling interference with his sovereign rights.

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, OCTOBER 10, 1850.

No less than nine of the journals of Paris are at the present moment appearing before the Tribunal of Correctional Police in Paris for insufficient compliance with the law requiring all authors of newspaper articles to sign their names. Touching these prosecutions, the only interesting remark to be made is respecting the choice of the tribunal before which it has pleased the Government to summon the delinquents. The law is silent upon the subject. The defendants themselves invoke the intervention of a jury. But this vital and saving institution is not yet understood and practised in France—republic though she calls herself—as it is in England and the United States. The Tribunal of Correctional Police functions in France exclude juries; and it was before this court that the witty and misanthropic minister directed the delinquents to be called. Many of the ablest lawyers of Paris not on the bench believe the court incompetent. The point was raised yesterday at the opening of the case; it was decided against the defendants, and the cause ordered to proceed.

Four other journals are also prosecuted for offences against the President. It is remarkable, and should be noted as one of the signs of the times, that these four journals are all of the Legitimist party. They all cry out against the injustice done them; and the Republican journals, against which this law was notoriously passed, with the warm support of these very papers which are now stricken, are in high glee to see the stone returning with so much force upon the heads of those who threw it. The antagonism which this position of the Legitimist press with regard to the Government reveals, confirms strongly the views which I have expressed in several of my late letters. The pretensions of LOUIS NAPOLEON and the Count DE CHAMORRE are coming into close conflict. The journals of the respective parties have the battle as yet all to themselves. Parties in the Assembly will next month take their share in it. Will it be the next month or the next year that the people, market in hand, will take theirs? Next year, pro-

bably. I believe the market is the only arbitress whose decisions will be abided by.

Negotiations are still progressing to effect the fusion of the Orleansist and Legitimist interests, of which your correspondent demonstrated, as he believes, the hopelessness in one of his late letters. The report prevailed that the Duchess of Orleans was about yielding her opposition, and the report seemed confirmed by the sudden departure for Claremont of MM. Thiers and Casimir Perier. These gentlemen did, in fact, four days since pay a hasty visit to England. The telegraphic despatch by which they notified the Princess of their intended visit found her with the rest of the ex-royal family on the eve of departure for Ostend, where the Queen of Belgium, the daughter of Louis Philippe, is lying extremely ill. The Duchess and the Duke of Nemours delayed their departure to receive M. Thiers. The result of the conference has not transpired. M. Thiers has returned to Paris, and the Duchess and Duke have joined the rest of the family at the sick bed of her sister. The medical attendants are of opinion that the Queen of Belgium will very speedily follow her father to the grave.

The reviews which the President is passing, and some of the incidents which have marked them, induced the commission of twenty-five, which the Assembly left in charge of its interests at the capital, to request the attendance at the sitting last Monday of the Ministers and the Prefect of Police. Much talk had taken place in public and private touching the removal from Paris of one of the regiments of the line forming part of its garrison. The order had been given previous to the review at Versailles. During the *defile* before the President this regiment was remarked for its enthusiasm. Shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" arose from its ranks. The next day, to the 1st regiment in question was ordered to cease its preparations for departure, and the post of honor at Paris was assigned to it. In the order of removal the number of another regiment was inserted. But it unfortunately so happened (accident, no doubt) that it was exactly this second regiment which of all present at the review was most noted for its want of enthusiasm at the *defile*. The Minister and the Prefect of Police attended as requested. The sitting was with closed doors, and nothing is known of what occurred—only it is said that General Changarnier has given express instructions that, during the grand cavalry review which is taking place to-day, and at which the evolutions are to be ordered after the plan of the battle of Eylau, the army shall abstain from all shouts whatever. The preparations for the review of to-day are upon a more magnificent scale than any of the preceding. It is announced as the last of the season, and the President is determined that if good cheer can effect it the army shall retain a grateful recollection of the review and of him. If this were not mail day I should certainly be at Versailles. Apart from the interest and excitement produced by grand military displays, especially of cavalry, I would much like to witness the attitude of the people towards the President. They will be drawn out to-day in great numbers, and the *Tenth Decembrists* promise to make up increased enthusiasm for the silence which the severe disciplinarian, General Changarnier, has imposed upon the army.

Your faithful European correspondent posted at London keeps you well advised of all continental news, or I should, in the dearth which prevails in France, be tempted again to cross the Rhine for the purpose of indulging in speculation upon the latest interesting intelligence from Hesse Cassel. But I abstain.

We are to have the third of next month the first practical evidence of the extent to which the lately amended electoral law affects universal suffrage. Writs have just been issued for one election to supply the place of a resigning member from the department of the North. This day's papers announce that the Republican party mean to run DUPONT (de l'Eure), one of the founders of the Republic, the purest and (M. Boulay's) opinion of M. Bonaparte to the contrary notwithstanding, the most honest man in France. But his day is past; he is in his dotage. M. Dupont was without any practical influence as a member of the Provisional Government. He is now a mere dupe and instrument in the hands of intriguing and less honest men. It requires all the charity I am master of, and ever present consideration of his long, honest, and consistent public life, to hold to my good opinion, of him in view of his conduct during the last eighteen months. I trust he will not suffer himself to be again brought forward. He will be without influence in the Assembly; he can do the Republican party no good, and would do irreparable harm to his own reputation.

In the Academy of Sciences on the 7th inst. an interesting communication was made touching a series of measurements which have lately been made, in order to fix satisfactorily the difference of level between the Mediterranean and Red seas. The result of the labors of the French engineers who accompanied the famous expedition in 1799 has never been taken as conclusive. Their surveys were executed too hastily, with defective instruments, and under a variety of circumstances which were unfavorable to the arrival at exact results. M. Bourdaloue undertook and completed the survey in 1847, under circumstances reported to be in all respects advantageous, and with instruments most carefully made and of the last degree of perfection. The result, laboriously arrived at, and rigorously proved at every stage of the survey, differs materially from that of 1799, as the following comparative table will show. The difference of level between the two seas was asserted to be 9.90 metres—equal to 32 1/2 feet. It is ascertained to be in fact only 2.27 metres—equal to 7 feet 5 inches. The following table is given:

	1799.	1847.
Metres.	Metres.	Metres.
Low water at the fort of Tineh (Kasr Tineh).....	0.00	0.00
High water at Kasr Tineh.....	9.90	2.27
Low water of the Nile at Mc-Kias of Rodah.....	5.29	13.23

The President of the French Republic will ere long be as richly bedizened with stars and ribbons bestowed by royal friends as if he were really one of themselves already. The King of the Two Sicilies has recently invested him with the insignia of the order of Ferdinand, and the Queen of Spain presented him, two or three days since, through her ambassador at Paris, with the collar of the order of the Golden Fleece. The number of knights is limited, and the death of Louis Philippe has just made a vacancy. The rich collar, which is one of the insignia of this order, does not belong in fee simple to the knight. He has only a life possession, and upon his death the badge reverts to the Queen. The collar which has been conferred on Louis Napoleon is said to have been the identical one worn by Charles V. It has certainly entwined the neck of Ferdinand VII.

It would appear from these proceedings that the crowned heads of Europe are quite confident that the humble title and power of President is not the be-all and the end-all here. They would hardly thus lavish their favors upon M. BONAPARTE unless they deemed that, instead of retiring in a few months and living thenceforth plain citizen Bonaparte, he would make the effort and succeed in it to become his Majesty Napoleon II.

SAD WARRIORS TO BOTS.—Two boys were out shooting on Friday evening, the one a son of H. L. Davis, the other the son of Mr. Irwin, painter, and taking it into their heads to amuse themselves by "towing," like Indians, and shooting at each other, the experiment resulted in the death of young Davis by a shot in the heart. We understand that the shot was common bird shot, and that but a single one took effect.—*Nashville Banner*.

COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITORS.

The recent and gigantic plans of roads, canals, and magnetic wire lines which have been announced, and are crowding the public prints, have induced me to write the subjoined, and construct the tabular views of distances therein contained. There now lies on my desk a file of the French *Journal des Debats*, containing several communications from an able French correspondent of that paper, resident at St. Petersburg, throwing a light on the Russian Government extremely at variance with public opinion in Western Europe and in the United States. The growth of that Power, and its extension over Northern Asia, of course towards North America, ought to stimulate us to shew our prejudices against and increase our real knowledge of such a Power. It is my intention to make a plain translation of some of the letters to which I have alluded, and place it at your disposal. In the mean time, as a preface, I forward the enclosed on wire lines and relative distances:

"The London newspapers, elated with the success of the Dover and Calais Telegraph, are discussing the possibility of extending a magnetic wire from England to Calcutta; and some of them even go so far as to recommend the establishment of a communication, *a la Morse*, with New York itself. It is urged that the latter enterprise, *Quintessence* as it may appear at first, is in reality only a question of time and money; for that, if it could exist, the practicability of sinking a wire in the Atlantic, none can be entertained of the entire possibility of effecting the connexion by way of Russia, Siberia, Behring's Straits, Oregon, St. Louis, and Philadelphia.

"The idea is a grand one, and worthy of the age which has projected a Pacific railroad. Should we live to the ordinary term allotted to man, we may perhaps ourselves behold this gigantic scheme carried out, and if we continue in the craft edifice may live to ask, before we go to press, if the wires are working to Kamptchacka, and to order, on an affirmative reply, that the news from London be sent us up to 10 o'clock. Our merchants, too, may give a dollar to a clerk, telling him to forward a message to Calcutta, and before dinner time the answer will be laid on his counting-house desk.

"The old Egyptians thought they knew a good deal; but how mummydom would have stared at this, and those indefatigable Romans, who built costly roads over half the world, and hurried messengers, with whip and spur, along them, what strange things would have been if they had heard the news of a Partisan despatch a week in advance by some private magnetic telegraph! It was no uncommon thing in the crusades for a good knight to be gone for years without his family hearing a syllable of him; but now-a-days, if another crusade was to be got up, anxious wives might ask, 'How do you do?' by telegraph, and receive a reply, when the doughty husband, at the siege of Acre, stopped to take dinner. Wonderful times these! Really we do not think we shall ever be done huzzing for this nineteenth century."

The author of the extract above says *wonderful times*; but we may, after reading a history of the last half century, decide that the times of wonder have closed, the childhood of mankind is past, as to the Caucasian Nations. Manhood is reached, and if, in the pride of virile strength, extravagance is sometimes enacted, we soon forget the trifling evil while admiring the every moment increasing good. In order to give a general connected view of distances, the annexed table is inserted:

Distances over Europe.—SPAIN.	
Gibraltar.....	100 miles.
Seville.....	100
Madrid.....	300
Saragossa.....	200
Tolosa.....	150
750	

FRANCE.	
Bordeaux.....	160
Langres.....	150
Bourges.....	120
Paris.....	150
Amiens.....	90
Lille, or St. Omer.....	80
750	

GERMANY.	
Ghent or Brussels.....	50
Amsterdam.....	100
Hamburg.....	200
Berlin.....	200
Warsaw.....	350
950	

EUROPEAN RUSSIA.	
St. Petersburg or Moscow.....	800
St. Petersburg to Kazan.....	800
1,600	

Distances over Asia.—ASIA.	
Kagan to Tobolsk.....	1,400
Tobolsk to Irkutsk.....	1,500
Irkutsk to Okotok.....	1,580
Behring's Strait.....	1,200
5,600	

AMERICA.	
Behring's to Slave Lake.....	1,500
Slave Lake to St. Louis.....	1,500
Washington city.....	800
3,500	

Entire distance.....9,400
Should such an improvement as the one herein suggested be ever realized—and in such consummation the past offered strong confidence—it is not to be supposed that the line or lines will pass locally through the places indicated; nor were they chosen with any such expectation, but, as points of reference, they afford a general view of relative distances and position. The telegraphic wire has decided advantage as to facility of construction and choice of route over roads, canals, or signal posts, as the obstructions on the earth's surface opposed to all the latter can but very partially influence the former. The wires, whenever and wherever drawn, it may be premised, will pass over the main points of commerce and concentrated population, wealth, and intelligence, and operate equally in light or darkness.

In the construction of the table the respective distances are very general, though not seriously departing from reality. It may be remarked that the two extremes are near the same latitude. Washington at latitude 38 deg. 52 min. north, longitude 77 deg. 08 min. W. and Gibraltar at north latitude 36 deg. 08 min., longitude 5 deg. 20 min. west of London.

When we refer backwards in time to the first year of this century, and place before our mental vision the changes made and inventions realized; and when we see specific gravity reduced to servitude under the command of steam; when we know that intelligence flies with the speed of thought, and that two persons at the extremes, however far apart, of a chain of iron wires, can convey their conceptions to each other as if standing face to face, where are we to set bounds to human power?

The United States are expanding over North America; the Russians over Northern Asia; and Great Britain forming a new Anglo-Saxon nation in Australia. These mighty revolutions are not fancies; they are stupendous realities. The time has come for thought to break its bonds.

The preceding was written when the following extract, cut from the National Intelligencer of October 21, of this morning, came to hand, and which, to save reference, I incorporate in this article. Similar to many other expressions of your London correspondent, it cannot be spread too wide or read too often:

"Mighty projects of international intercourse are occupying the attention of our commercial and mercantile men. We trust they are practicable, for what cannot be compassed by science and capital? There is no doctrine of finality applicable to their united operation. These projects are indicative of a truly gratifying state of public sentiment among the mighty of the earth; and, after all, the wise men and the wealthy men are the mighty ones, for emperors and kings, and generals and prime ministers are truly insignificant when unassisted by knowledge and destitute of money. The public sentiment among the nations of Europe, as at present indicated, is, we think, a desire for peace; and one of the great projects to which we allude is an extension of the 'realm of steam.' The steam-engine is the pioneer of social reformation; it occupies, or nearly so, the position which the printing-press did about four hundred years ago. The steam-engine is already on its road from the West, approaching the frontiers of Turkey; while at the same time it is starting from the East, and projecting its course from Calcutta to Hyderabad, and so forward. These two will meet at no distant day at the station-house at Bazaarah. A bell of semi-civilization will soon bring about enlightenment on both sides. Ignorance and intolerance, and long-cherished national antipathy will be placed between two fires—those of science and peaceful and profitable intention, and will soon yield to a better state of things. It is only a question of time, and that, probably, a short one. But the great plan, already on the tapis, is the connexion of Vienna—to which

there is nearly a continuous road from Ostend—through Pesh, Constantinople, Asia Minor, Persia, Beloochistan, with India still further, with China. We are quite aware that political questions may, and most likely will arise, the prominent one being the old rivalry between the Slavonian and the Saxon in the East. These questions will, however, have to be settled some time or other, and we do not see any difficulty in their settlement if entered upon with a proper spirit. We already anticipate the time when either Great Britain or Russia will be announced as the head of the Board—as Chairman or Manager of the 'Asia Minor, Euphrates, Persia, and Beloochistan Railway and Steam Company.' Seriously speaking, however, we have seen, in our short career, greater and more unlooked-for announcements than this take place. Colonel CRESSWELL, in his account of the Euphrates expedition, says that since 1840 he has seen no existing impediments, and at no moderate expense either, as to bring Bombay within eighteen days and a half of London by sea, and fourteen days and a half by a